

## CALVARY CONTENDER ARTICLES

May 15, 2000 (Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) - The following information is from recent issues of the Calvary Contender. Jerry Huffman is the editor of this bi-weekly paper. The full issues are available on the web at <http://home.hiwaay.net/~contendr> --

THEOPHISTIC COUNSELING: DIVINE REVELATION? OR PSYCHOHERESY? is the title of a new book by Martin & Deidre Bobgan. It is a critique of a psychotherapeutic system developed by Dr. Ed Smith which he claims is a divine revelation from God. The Bobgans examine its claims, cures and cases and show that Smith's system is an eclectic mixture of existent therapies, including elements from the inner healing, "recovered memories," and Freudian systems. Smith encourages clients to find Jesus in the memory picture and to interact with Him. You can get this 144-page book and a free newsletter for a special price of \$9 from: EastGate Publishers, 4137 Primavera Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93110, 800/216-4696. (Calvary Contender, January 1, 2000)

FOSSIL FACTS & FANTASIES, new book by Joe Taylor, has 80 large pages, over 300 color photos. Not familiar with author's background, but he is committed to young earth and a global flood. To order, call 1-800/367-7454. (Calvary Contender, January 15, 2000)

PUBLIC SCHOOL EFFORT PROMOTES 'GAY' LIFE--Activist groups, led by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), teamed with at least 10 mainstream public-education organizations to send a pro-homosexuality pamphlet to the nation's 15,000 public-school districts (1/1 World). The 11-page "factsheet" is authored by unionists, gay activists, and educators. The booklet repeatedly tells school officials homosexuality is normal and healthy, and that any contrary messages place students at risk of physical and emotional harm. (Calvary Contender, January 15, 2000)

CAMPUS CRUSADE'S ECUMENICAL TRIBUTE TO JESUS--The Jesus Film Project is a ministry of Campus Crusade. Paul Eshleman is its Director, and his letters often report miraculous visions and dreams in foreign lands. But his 12/6 newsletter also reported "A Millennial Tribute to Jesus" global broadcast and an all-out effort to enlist world-famous celebrities to record a "tribute to Jesus." A wide variety of mostly liberals and ecumenicals were featured for 18 minutes of the 2-hour "JESUS" film special to break down resistance to the broadcast. Included were: Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Andy Young, Billy Graham, Pope John Paul II, Jesse Jackson, and presidents of India, Nigeria, Ecuador, and Uganda. How can the ungodly give honor and tribute to Jesus? (Calvary Contender, January 15, 2000)

PRAGMATISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY CHURCH--A 12/99 Voice article states: "Much of the church....has substituted programs for prayer, personalities for power, entertainment for genuine worship, prosperity for purity and organizational unity for fidelity to an unadulterated Gospel....Pragmatism has so overtaken the thinking of the people of God that enlarging the numbers in the church is regarded as the criterion of blessing and whatever it takes to accomplish this end is justified. Thus we have great emphasis on removing anything that will hinder this process of attempting to include people in the family of God. A Christian is redefined as 'Anyone believing in Jesus.' Definitions of justification are carefully crafted so that Roman Catholics are not excluded from the effort to bring the church together. Understanding of holiness is adjusted so that lifestyle does not indict one as being out of harmony with an acceptable Christian life. The common cause of 'Reaching the World for Christ' becomes the foundation of the church's unity in spite of the doctrinal differences in essential theological areas...." (Calvary Contender, January 15, 2000)

MOLTMANN WINS \$200,000 AWARD--German Lutheran theologian Jurgen Moltmann was given the 2000 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion (12/27 Chr. News) by Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and the U. of Louisville. The 1/11/93 Christianity Today called him "one of this century's most influential theologians." (See 2/15/93 CC). But the 1/23/93 Christian News said Moltmann rejects the Trinity and the historic Christian faith and opens the door for a Marxist liberation theology. (Calvary Contender, January 15, 2000)

CORNERSTONE'S RELAXED RULES--Cornerstone College (Grand Rapids) has its first national basketball championship. An AP article (1/1 Huntsville Times) from an interview with Coach Kim Elders stated: "But it's not all straight and narrow at Cornerstone. Cheerleaders wear short skirts, unlike those at some other Christian schools. And some of the male basketball players wear earrings, something that Elders says is OK although he wouldn't wear one." Elders said: "We're not nearly as legalistic as we used to be." Cornerstone and GRBS are still GARBC approved schools and feature new evangelical speakers. (Calvary Contender, January 15, 2000)

MORMON TEMPLE 'SEALING ROOM'--Mormons reportedly now have 61 temples in operation and 54 more planned or under construction. A temple has a "sealing room" where Mormon couples are sealed in their marriage for eternity (12/99 The Discerner). This helps in their "exaltation," the right to become gods and goddesses and have their own planet in eternity (and privilege to continue to have children). A tithe of income is expected for the right of "sealing." A Mormon man can be "sealed" to any number of women who will be his wives in eternity. He can be sealed to the wife of another man in this life if she has not been sealed to another Mormon man. But if a sealed Mormon woman's husband dies, and she somehow becomes sealed to another Mormon man, then "whose wife will she be in the resurrection"? (Calvary Contender, February 1, 2000)

BWA LEADER REACHES OUT ECUMENICALLY TO CATHOLICS, CHARISMATICS?--Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz says: "All of our denominations need a re-examination. When Pope John XXIII called for 'opening windows' he shook the foundations of Catholic ecclesiology and did open the windows of the Vatican to new ideas and more cooperative relations with other [sic] Christians. In the same way, we need a Baptist opening of the windows, not only to let the old and worn air out, but to allow a fresh blowing of the Holy Spirit in our midst." (Bapt. World) Lotz said there are 500 million charismatics in the world and the Christian Church has to come to terms with this movement. He said "We must open ourselves up to new things that the Spirit would have us do...." The Southern Baptist Convention is a main member of the apostate BWA. (Calvary Contender, February 1, 2000)

SBC CHURCH HOSTS ECUMENICAL MEETING, CULTS INVOLVED--A Jan. 15 Huntsville Times article began: "Where will you find a Catholic priest speaking in a [So.] Baptist Church, with music being performed by Seventh Day Adventists and members of a Church of Christ? At the Festival of Christian Unity for the Great Jubilee Service....[T]he Christian community will gather for a time of worship and praise at First Baptist Church on Jan. 23...." Organizers hope this will be the beginning of a new ecumenical movement here. The Catholic speaker said it is not only important that the Christian "streams" of Roman Catholicism, Orthodox, Protestant and Evangelicals/Pentecostals come together for dialogue, but that they do so with people from all of the world's major religions or "we will never have peace." An SDA pastor said: "It is our hope that all barriers of divisiveness will be moved, and we will focus on the things that unite us and draw us together." God's holy Word commands separation from cultists and false-gospel adherents. "It is better to be divided by truth than united in error." (Calvary Contender, February 1, 2000)

PRIESTS DIE OF AIDS AT HIGH RATE--Roman Catholic priests in the U.S. are dying from AIDS-related illnesses at a rate four times higher than the general population and the cause is often concealed on their death certificates (1/31 HT). Several hundreds have died since the mid-1980s and hundreds more now live with HIV. Most priests with AIDS contracted it through same-sex (homosexual) relations. Catholics forbid priests to marry heterosexually. "Forbidding to marry" is linked with "doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1-3). 1 Cor. 7:1-9 teaches, to avoid fornication, if a person cannot have self-control, then it is better to marry than to burn with sinful lust. (Calvary Contender, February 15, 2000)

ANOTHER CHURCH LEAVES GARBC--Middletown Road Baptist Church [Pittsburgh-Jeff Kistler, pastor] voted Jan. 26 to withdraw from the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. A resolution which passed unanimously stated: "This action is taken after years of study, discussion, and prayer. It is our observation that this fellowship of churches no longer stands Biblically and doctrinally, on the historic principles on which it was originally established. Noticeably weak and almost nonexistent is the organization's position and practice

of Biblical separation. Likewise, we have seen the Association minimize the Biblical importance and primacy that the Lord has placed upon the ministry and mission of the local church. We take this action with great sadness and deep regret. However we must, for as a church we are determined and committed to maintain the Biblical stand that was once very evident in the GARBC but is currently lacking. We will currently maintain our fellowship with the PARBC and with the Association of Independent Baptist Churches of W. Pennsylvania with due vigilance.” (Calvary Contender, February 15, 2000)

AIDS EPIDEMIC HITS AFRICA HARD--AIDS has become the No. 1 killer in sub-Saharan Africa, last year claiming 2.2 million lives, 10 times the death toll from all of Africa’s civil wars (2/14 USN&WR). AIDS is the fourth-leading cause of death worldwide. In developing countries, it is the fastest-growing cause of adult deaths and these are projected to increase fourfold (2/7 CT). At a Lusaka, Zambia school, half the 250 pupils are AIDS orphans. (Calvary Contender, March 1, 2000)

SPONG IS AN ‘A-THEIST’-Episcopal bishop John Spong, who retired Jan. 29 (see 2/15 CC), says he now considers himself an “a-theist.” He rejects almost every Christian doctrine (2/7 Chr. News). He said “I don’t want a God that would go around killing people’s little girls. Neither do I want a God who would kill his own son.” He said he doesn’t want to be in a church that keeps “gays” in the closet and women out of the priesthood (1/27 Daily Record, NJ). Spong’s successor as bishop of No. New Jersey is John Croneberger. He battles quietly, but has waged many of the same battles as Spong (1/30 Star-Ledger, NJ). His church hosted the 1990 ordination of a “gay” priest. (Calvary Contender, March 1, 2000)

SO. BAPTIST TEENS ROCK/DANCE AT NEW YEAR’S YOUTHLINK 2000--A New Year’s Eve celebration capped a 3-night, 2-day millennial festival at YouthLink 2000’s seven sites. Sponsored by four SBC agencies, this event was the largest youth gathering in SBC history (2/18 Sword of the Lord). It drew over 46,000 SB teenagers who partied to ear-splitting, heart-pounding praise and worship music by nationally known “Christian” rock bands, cheering, singing, screaming and bounce-dancing until about 2 a.m. (Calvary Contender, March 15, 2000)

CATHOLICS COVER UP PRIESTS DYING OF AIDS--The 2/14 U.S. News & World Report said: “Since the mid-1980s, hundreds of Roman Catholic priests in the U.S. were reported to have died of AIDS, with a death rate four times that of the general public....The widely circulated report last week by the Kansas City Star raised the disquieting specter of a church hierarchy more intent on covering up than coping with the problem.” A.W. Richard Sipe, a former priest who has spent over 30 years studying sexuality issues in the RC Church, thinks about 750 priests nationwide have died of such illnesses. This means an AIDS-related death rate eight times that of the general population (2/7 Chr. News). Joseph Barone, a NJ psychiatrist and AIDS expert, puts the number of U.S. priests who have died at 1,000--nearly 11 times the rate of the general population. (Calvary Contender, March 15, 2000)

FUNDAMENTALISM’S NEXT GENERATION--Alan D. Cole (Assoc. Prof. of Bible & Theology, Faith Bapt. Theol. Sem.) discusses “Three Perils of Fundamentalism’s Next Generation” in the Feb. Faith Pulpit: The Peril of Persecution, The Peril of Pride, and The Peril of Pluralism. 1. On persecution, he comments: “This country which was formed to protect religious freedom has moved from tolerance of religion toward a position of intolerance. ‘Religion’ is viewed as a good thing as long as it does not get in the way of the social agenda of multiculturalism....” 2. On pride: “The new generation of Fundamentalists faces the peril of thinking that they are superior to the founders of the movement. There is the temptation to look at foibles of past men and respond with disdain toward them and [their] positions....” 3. On pluralism: “The next generation faces the temptation to avoid controversy under the guise of toleration. There is an attitude that affirms that one’s salvation is all that matters and that doctrinal distinctives are insignificant. ...When one attends ecumenical conventions for male leadership, when one uses ‘Christian Rock’ or CCM to build his youth group, when one is unwilling to defend and declare personal and ecclesiastical separation, he is guilty of religious pluralism...combining the world with the Word and clouding the lines of distinction between them....” (Calvary Contender, March 15, 2000)

HINN'S 'HEALING PARK'--Benny Hinn plans a \$30 million healing park on a 50-acre site near his new Dallas headquarters (1/00 Charisma). Contributors can have their names recognized on plaques in various sections of the theme park, such as at the Healing Hall of Faith, in the Healing Gardens, the Fountain of Healing, the Healing Stream or maybe at the Eternal Flame of Healing. (Calvary Contender, April 1, 2000)

EMMAUS WALK--Emmaus Walk is a 3-day weekend retreat experience. It emerged from the Roman Catholic Church's Cursillo Movement and is charismatic and ecumenical in nature (3-4/00 Foundation). It is often sponsored by the United Methodist or other mainline denomination. The Emmaus Web site states: "The Emmaus Walk is mainstream in theological outlook.... It is a common meeting ground for the great diversity of Christians...who celebrate their unity in Christ and feel they can learn from one another, be they traditionalists, evangelicals, liberals, conservatives, activists, charismatics, and especially all those who seek to follow Christ without regard to labels and camps." An Indiana clergyman described the experience thusly: "In small table groups, we listened, took notes, and discussed each theme. What an experience it was to listen as my fellow pilgrims-U. Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Lutherans, and Baptists, wrestled with how to apply each topic to life...." (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2000)

NEW BOOK SAYS WCC INFILTRATED BY KGB--A new book: "National Protestantism and the Ecumenical Movement: Church Activities During the Cold War," based on KGB files opened in 1992, confirms that at the height of the Cold War the World Council of Churches was "infiltrated" by E. European intelligence agencies and that one of its former presidents (Metropolitan Nikodim) was a KGB agent (3/20 Chr. News). The book was published by German scholars Gerhard Besier, Armin Boyens, and Gerhard Lindemann who spent years of research in writing the 1074-page book. We ran several articles on this before and after the 1992 KGB files were opened. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2000, May 1, 2000)

NEW BLACKABY BOOK--Illinois Pastor Gary Gilley reviews Fresh Encounter, a new book by Henry Blackaby and Claude King (BDM Letter, PO Box 679, Bedford, IN 47421), and says it is unclear what the authors believe revival to be. Concerning the Wheaton College "revival" of 1995, Gilley asks where those who were supposedly revived are today? And, "Did the Wheaton students in [this] revival repent of their doctrinal errors or just have a momentary fling with emotionalism? True revival should ...lead to a move back to Scripture and away from the theological compromise that Wheaton has long embraced." Blackaby tells of a charismatic pastor who said: "We have a group in our church studying Experiencing God. It is led by a Presbyterian, filled with charismatics, and has a Church of Christ pastor in attendance, and they are studying Baptist materials. That's got to be revival." Gilley says: "Get it? Their evidence of true revival is not serving God in truth, it is ecumenism among those who have laid down their doctrinal distinctives to join hands over mutual experiences." Gilley cites the book's error of mysticism and constant confusion of the church with Israel. (Calvary Contender, May 1, 2000)

DENVER SEMINARY'S FOCAL POINT ARTICLE PROMOTES ECUMENISM--Denver Seminary is part of the Conservative Baptist Association which is a member of the NAE which now allows their churches to be dually aligned with the NCC which is a member of the WCC! Any link with the apostate NCC/WCC violates biblical separation commands. Dr. Leith Anderson is the interim president of Denver. Dr. Peter Menconi writes in DS's Spr. 2000 Focal Point: "....Unfortunately, most churches have been ineffective at making the Body of Christ seamless in their own city or town, let alone in the world. One of the greatest hindrances to the infectious spread of the Gospel...has been the division of Christians along socio-economic, denominational and racial/ethnic lines. Conversely, one of the greatest witnesses to an unbelieving world will be the unity of Christians no matter what their hue or shade, their portfolio or lack thereof, or their theological quirks...." He, in essence, is downplaying doctrine! The way many evangelicals are working in ecumenical unity with charismatics, liberals, and Roman Catholics--and considering them part of the Body of Christ--is a grievous disgrace in our day. (Calvary Contender, May 15, 2000)

CATHOLIC TO HEAD HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL--Bryan Hehir is the new head of Harvard Divinity School, the first Roman Catholic priest at this post (9/13 Christian News). He succeeds Ronald Thiemann (ELCA) who recently resigned after computer technicians found thousands of porn sites on his personal computer at

his university residence after he requested technical assistance (7/1 CC). (Calvary Contender, October 15, 1999)

WCC IS WOOING CATHOLICS & EVANGELICALS--[Dr. Ralph Colas, executive secretary of the American Council of Christian Churches, attended the August 26 - September 3 50th Meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. Below are a few excerpts from the first draft of his Special Report, available soon from: ACCC, P.O. Box 5455, Bethlehem, PA 18015.] The WCC continues it's "courting process" to bring "people of other faiths" under its umbrella. Its ecumenical machine is in high gear as it embraces gullible evangelicals and their entities. George Vandervelde, a leader in the World Evangelical Fellowship, was a major speaker at the WCC's 50th Assembly, Dec. 1998, in Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa. It appears his participation has been rewarded by being given a position serving on WCC's Commission on World Missions and Evangelism. (The WEF claims to represent 200 million evangelicals in 600,000 churches.) The WCC leadership also extended an "olive branch" to Rev. Kurt Bangert of the Lutheran Church in Germany, World Vision's official representative at this WCC's Geneva meeting. (WV is an EFMA member with a relief ministry in over 90 countries.) Bangert said he had an unusual private meeting with the WCC's Gen. Sec'y, Dr. Konrad Raiser. Numerous Roman Catholic leaders are serving on various WCC Commissions and Committees and the WCC is opening up to the Roman Catholic Church as well as developing further relationships with Pentecostal and Evangelical groups with a new dynamo of dialogue. (Calvary Contender, October 15, 1999)

DAVID RICE & BIBLE STUDENT MOVEMENT--In September big ads appeared in our local paper for a "Bible Prophecy Seminar," sponsored by Huntsville Bible Students at a Holiday Inn. We tried to learn more about it by calling a listed number, but got evasive answers ("we're nondenominational," etc.). Per a flyer, the speaker was David Rice, who "has served the San Diego Bible Students for 25 years as an elected minister and Bible teacher." Watchman Fellowship wasn't familiar with any of this, but after checking on the Internet, said Rice and SDBS were an offshoot of Jehovah's Witnesses. We pursued this and got some of their literature that stated they were non-trinitarian. Satan is so very subtle. Be warned, be wise, beware! (Calvary Contender, November 1, 1999)